

# THE OPENING OF THE JAPANESE DIET

## An Impressive Scene, at Which Not a Sound Was Heard But That of the Emperor's Voice

(Special Cable Dispatch from Frederick Palmer, Collier's War Correspondent.)

TOKIO, March 20.—The striking feature of the opening of the diet was that the ceremony progressed both without and without the houses of parliament in unbroken silence. But for the words of the emperor himself, this national event, at the time of a great historic crisis, was a performance in pantomime. There were no other speaking parts no chorus. Both princes and populace expressed their veneration for their sovereign by dumb respect, infinitely more impressive than processional music, cheers or booming cannon. It was silence so eloquent that it clothed each movement of the mikado with mystery. The public progress of other monarchs would have been the excuse for noisy demonstrations. Especially is this true of the time when a nation is at war. At the approach of other monarchs there would have been roars of cheers, warning words of command, the rattle of muskets pointed in salute, the straining of the national anthem—but today the entrance of the emperor into the chamber was announced only by a silence so solemn that it could be felt.

In silence a parchment roll was handed to him, and only broken by his voice, at which sound each head bowed as though in prayer. This stillness continued. In silence still the parchment was returned with a bow, and the mikado glided among his attendants and disappeared without an added word. The members, the nobles, generals, admirals and diplomats separated at the departure of the emperor. It was the only signal given for their dismissal. Outside, the mikado passed between long lines of subjects; and, although no officer of his escort gave a command, no policeman raised a voice, he moved through the crowded avenue surrounded by the same reverence as though he were moving down the aisle of a church. One saw in this loyalty, in the strong emotion strongly repressed, said in the power of organization exhibited by this ceremony, those same qualities of discipline, discretion and secrecy of purpose that at Port Arthur carried the torpedo squadron in safety through the night, through snow and ice to victory.

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## THE A B C'S OF THE RULES OF WAR

(Kansas City Times.)

WHAT is a just cause of war? A gross violation by one nation of the rights of another. Just how gross this must be cannot be laid down. There are no fixed rules for determining whether in a specific instance war is justifiable. The nations involved must decide. Occasionally the arousing of strong national animosities forces hostilities over a dispute which in itself is not serious enough to justify an armed conflict.

But are not the relations of nations governed by a definite code of international law?

To some degree. But the "code" is by no means definite. Certain agreements have been entered into between nations to govern international procedure. But there are numerous points not touched upon in these conventions. In certain relations custom has become so fixed as to assume the dignity of law. In general, however, international law may be said to be extremely flexible. England, for instance, is governed by one code in dealing with France and by another in dealing with Turkey.

Are there any general rules governing the conduct of war?

Yes. It is assumed that war is waged between governments by authorized persons, and is not waged against the passive inhabitants of a country; that the smallest amount of injury consistent with the necessities of war is to be inflicted and that hostilities are to be conducted as humanely as possible.

Have any detailed regulations been agreed to?

These matters have been discussed at several international conferences and agreements have been reached on many points by most civilized nations. The important conferences have been those of Paris, of St. Petersburg, of Geneva, of Brussels and of The Hague.

What did the declaration of Paris involve?

By the declaration of Paris in 1864 it was agreed that privateering should be abolished; that an enemy's goods, excepting contraband of war, cannot be captured on a neutral vessel; that a neutral's goods on an enemy's vessel are not liable to seizure, and that blockades to be binding must be effective; that is, maintained by a force sufficient to prevent access to the enemy's port.

What was the Geneva convention?

This provided "for the amelioration of the condition of the sick and wounded of armies in the field." By its provisions wounded or sick soldiers are to be cared for when they fall into the enemy's hands, ambulances and hospitals are regarded as neutral, and so are not subject to attack or capture, and persons in the medical service have the privileges of neutrals. A red cross on a white ground is made the badge of neutrality.

What was agreed to at The Hague conference?

The agreement then entered into covers a large number of details. It provides, for instance, that prisoners of war are to retain all their property save their arms, horses and military papers; that poisoned bullets and projectiles inflicting unnecessary injury are not to be used, that warning be given before the bombardment of a town, and

that private property may not be confiscated in a conquered country.

What is a neutral?

It is a power which in time of war takes no part in the contest, but remains on friendly terms with both parties.

What are the obligations of neutrality?

A neutral state must prevent the enlistment of troops within its territory by belligerents. It cannot allow troops to cross its territory, it cannot permit the use of its territory as a base of operations, and it cannot allow its harbors to be used as a permanent place of refuge by the ships of either belligerent. If hostile vessels enter a neutral port an interval of twenty-four hours must elapse between departures. A neutral, however, is not bound to restrain its citizens from lending money to either belligerent.

What is "contraband of war"?

It consists of commodities which, on account of their immediate use in the prosecution of hostilities, a neutral cannot transport to either belligerent without risk of confiscation. Authorities are divided as to what is contraband. Arms and munitions of war and machinery for their manufacture belong to this class. Under certain circumstances coal is contraband. There is a dispute as to the status of horses and mules. The United States has always refused to hold provisions as contraband, although other nations have sometimes taken the opposite view.

Is it common for wars to begin with a formal declaration?

Previous to the seventeenth century wars were always begun with great formalities. Heralds were frequently sent with letters of defiance. But for the last 300 years the practice has not been uniform. It is common, however, for belligerents to issue manifestoes announcing the existence of war to their own citizens and to neutrals.

What is the procedure for neutral nations when such notification is received?

They issue proclamations of neutrality, warning their citizens against giving military aid to either of the contending powers.

How does war affect the commerce of neutrals?

They may not trade with blockaded ports or in contraband of war. Otherwise their commerce is not interfered with.

Must citizens of one of the belligerents living in the country of the other withdraw?

The modern rule is to permit them to remain unmolested during good behavior. The right to expel them exists, however. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war the French government announced that enemy's subjects might remain. Later in the year they were given three days' notice to leave the country.

What is the rule as to trading vessels of one of the belligerents in the harbors of the other at the time of the declaration of war?

They may be seized and confiscated. But it has become customary to give them a month or six weeks to leave port. After the outbreak of hostilities no further trade is supposed to take place between the countries involved.



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## AWAY TO THE WARS!

Cossack Cavalrymen Leaving Their Native Village for Active Service Along the Yalu.

The Cossacks are a mixed race, forming a small proportion—about 2,500,000—of the population of the czar's domains. They are indigenous especially to the basins of the Dnieper and the Don, the Caucasus and the Ural provinces, but owing to their nomadic character are also to be found in southern Siberia as far east as the Amur. Being essentially a fighting people with warlike traditions, the Cossacks contribute formidably to the offensive strength of the Russian empire. In themselves the Cossack soldiers are regarded as irregular troops. They are, however, incorporated by military units in the various branches of the regular army, supplying battalions of infantry, squadrons of cavalry and batteries of artillery.

## FACTS ABOUT THE RUSSIAN ARMY

The wages of a common soldier in the regular army of Russia do not amount to more than 1 cent a day, though his food, clothing, and equipment are provided by the government. His regular allowance for spending money for all purposes is just a little more than a ruble a year, but extras of various kinds bring the grand total up to a little less than \$4. This sum is supposed to cover all his expenditures for tobacco, spirits, and luxuries of every kind. The enlisted men in the United States army are paid more than three times that much per month, or about forty times as much per year. When it is considered how little the Russian private has to spend it is easy to see why he should be eager and quick "on the job."

The Russian officers are paid a little better, but not so much so as to cause any particular gasping for breath. A Russian lieutenant gets about \$200 a year, a captain about \$300, and a major \$450. It will be seen therefore that such of the Russian officers as have not private means or do not obtain financial assistance from some outside source are forced to live in a condition not far removed from actual poverty. A new uniform to a man who depends on his pay is quite impossible. As a matter of fact, almost all the higher officers come from more or less wealthy families, and if they marry they are supposed to select only rich girls as wives.

The most astonishing strength of the Russian army is in its cavalry branch. The agricultural department at Washington estimates that in all the world there are about 65,000,000 horses. The Russian empire alone has 20,000,000 horses, or nearly half of the grand total. In the regular army of the czar there are no less than half a million horses, and this number in time of war might be easily doubled. How valuable this vast cavalry force may be in the far east may be questioned, for allowing to each horse a daily ration of twenty-five pounds of fodder and taking it for granted that Manchuria and the adjacent provinces raise little that might be used for horse food, it is hard to see how any large number of horses can be permanently maintained at the far end of a single track railroad more than 5,000 miles long.

In the Russian cavalry, of course, the most picturesque corps is that of the Cossacks. The Cossacks are really professional soldiers. They almost live on horseback, and are the only horsemen

in the world who equal the rough riders of the far western states in feats of horsemanship. They come from about the Black sea, and out of a total population of 3,000,000 furnish 150,000 men for the imperial army. The horses and uniforms of the Cossacks are furnished by the various Cossack tribal communities, and in camp the curious tribal signs hang over the entrances to the quarters of each regiment. In active service the Cossacks are the eyes and ears of the Russian army. They are the scouts, the pathfinders, the couriers, and orderlies when desperate and dangerous work is to be done. They are much more independent than the common soldiers of the army, and are also treated with much more consideration by the military authorities.

The Cossacks are armed with rifles, without bayonets, with swords, without guards, and the men in the front ranks in each company also carry lances. They take great care of their horses, and are esteemed as among the most daring, tireless, and relentless soldiers in the world.

The predominant and characteristic color in the uniforms of the Russian army is dark green. The infantry wear double breasted blouses and knicker-

## French Sympathy for Russia—Pro-Russian Sentiment Has Increased Since War Began.

(By Courtesy of Collier's Weekly.)

PRO-RUSSIAN sentiment in France has decidedly strengthened since the war began. When hostilities seemed inevitable, writes our Paris correspondent, there was practically a unanimous outcry against any action which might involve France in hostilities. Monsieur Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, declared that there was nothing in the Franco-Russian declaration of 1902 regarding China, which abridged French independence. Morally, France might consider herself bound to intervene in case Great Britain or another power should assist Japan, but there existed no written engagement requiring such action.

The sudden breaking off of negotiations by Japan and the unexpected attack of Port Arthur was the first cause of a change in sentiment. The French press began to accuse the Japanese of treachery. Directly contributory to the new feeling was the suspected effort of Kaiser Wilhelm to "take advantage of the war and pose as the single friend of Russia, thus alienating France and destroying the dual alliance. The American note in regard to the neutralization of China and the respect of the belligerents for the administrative entity of that empire was believed to be aimed at Russia. French sentiment was further appealed to by the timely publication of a statement of a conversation between Count Muraviev, former minister of foreign affairs for Russia, and Felix Faure, late president of the republic, during the Fashoda incident. France and Great Britain were on the eve of war, and Muraviev came to Paris, especially charged with a message from the czar to the president. The published version, undoubtedly authentic, shows that Russia was

prepared to support her ally against Great Britain. "If you strike," declared Muraviev, "we will strike, too."

Two weeks after the war began calculation had disappeared from French policy and sympathy for Russia had supplanted it. The Russian fleet in the Red sea was allowed to remain at the French port of Jobuti in spite of English and Japanese criticisms until Russia saw fit to give the order to sail. Group after group in parliament affirmed its absolute fidelity to the traditional policy of the country. Some went so far as to subscribe liberally for the support of wounded and sick Russian soldiers. The Russo-Chinese bank opened a subscription for the wounded and ill of the Russian troops, and within two weeks \$50,000 was at its disposal. The Parisian press also opened a subscription with equally good results. Vice Admiral Benaudet protested that the powers would line up against one another, France, Germany, and Russia on one side, the United States, Great Britain, and Japan on the other. "Therefore," cried this high officer of the navy of France, "let us prepare." But while France's sympathy for Russia is strong, it would never lead to war unless Great Britain should intervene. Russia realizes the advantage of France's holding herself aloof. Independent, France's voice would have greater weight in the Balkans, and materially support Russian representations. Finally, it should not be forgotten that a tremendous block of Russian securities are held in France, and the effect of French participation in the conflict upon their value is at once apparent.

bockers of that color. The footguards and grenadiers have bright colored pipings and facings on their green coats. Some of the lancers wear blue and scarlet. The Cossacks wear mostly dark blue or green. But the general effect, the prevailing tone, is dark green, except in the hot months, when white is the leading note.

As to equipment, a Russian infantryman carries thirty rounds of ammunition in his belt, thirty more rounds in a bandolier hung over his left shoulder underneath his great coat which he carries there done up in a roll, and a final reserve supply of ammunition, consisting of thirty rounds, carried in a pouch which hangs from a strap running over the left shoulder and attached to the belt. From the right shoulder is suspended his waterproof kit bag, and on top of the kit bag is an aluminum water bottle holding a pint and a half. To the great coat is strapped a pair of boots and an aluminum mess dish. Besides this every six men carry among them the materials for a tent which will properly shelter them, so that it may easily be seen that the Russian soldier is considerable of a weight carrier.

The medical and surgical departments of the Russian army are finely developed. There are six large and more than 300 smaller hospitals regularly connected with the army, besides a much larger number of smaller lazarets. There are more than 3,000 surgeons in the army on a peace footing, and most of them are men of advanced training and high standing in their profession. The hospitals and surgeons in charge are supplied by the state with the latest and most improved apparatus for carrying on their work in the best possible manner during the necessary inconveniences and hardships of an active campaign. The drugs for medical use are prepared for the army medical department in the form of tabloids, with the active principles accurately doled and put up by the latest machinery, and the bandages and dressings are prepared and sent out in sterilized bundles from the state factories, which are the admiration of all the medical men who have seen them.

The present Russian army, as an organization, is only about thirty years old. It was established by the imperial ukase of January, 1874, by which the whole male population of the empire, with the exception of certain privileged districts, is made liable to military service, from the beginning of the twenty-first to the end of the forty-third year. Of this time, the first five years are spent in the standing army and the remainder in the militia. In every year

## History in the Senate.

(New York World.)

Senator Bacon was assailing the plan to appropriate \$8,000 for a base for the statue of Frederick the Great which the German emperor had given to this country and inquiring if the president did not usurp a prerogative of congress by accepting the statue.

"Now let me tell you about Frederick the Great," said Senator Stewart. "I am not in need of the senator's information," said Senator Bacon.

"But I desire to tell the senator about Frederick the Great," persisted Mr. Stewart.

"I cannot yield for a speech," said Senator Bacon.

This sort of thing went on for some time, and finally Senator Stewart got the floor and began to tell the senate all about Frederick the Great. It was a good speech, but the trouble was that the senator told the senate about Peter the Great instead of Frederick the Great.

And this morning it was all cut out of the Congressional Record.

## An Arab Proverb.

Man is four:

The man who knows not and knows not he knows not, he is a fool—shun him.

The man who knows not and knows he knows not, he is simple—teach him.

The man who knows and knows not he knows, he is asleep—wake him.

The man who knows and knows that he knows, he is wise—follow him.

## The Main Question.

(Chicago Post.)

"Somebody wants to see you, sir," said the office boy.

"Did you get his name, Jimmy?"

"No, sir."

"You've been guilty of a serious oversight, Jimmy."

"He said he wanted to see you."

"But that's comparatively unimportant, Jimmy. The main question is, do I want to see him?"



PRINCESS ARISUGAWA

THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AT THE NOBLES' CLUB, TOKIO.

PRINCE ARISUGAWA

For two months after the beginning of the war the Japanese government persistently refused to allow any of the foreign correspondents to proceed to the front. The embargo has now been partly raised, and two of Collier's representatives, Frederick Palmer and James H. Hare, have received permission to go with the Japanese troops. They are two of the five American correspondents to whom such permission has been granted. During the period of confinement to Tokyo, the European and American newspaper men were shown every civility by the officials and private individuals. They were entertained last night at luncheon by Lieutenant General Baron Kodama, vice chief of the general staff of the army, at the Nobles' club of Tokyo. Many tokens of international goodwill were taken by James H. Hare, Collier's special war photographer. Prince Arisugawa Takehito, a near relative of the Emperor of Japan, will attend the St. Louis exposition this summer, accompanied by his wife. This visit is to be made as an expression of the attitude of the Japanese people toward Japan at the present time and as a mark of special friendship for the United States.

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